

{{Help~Guide}} Why did Alamo charge me \$200?

👉+1-855_337_9478 If you have recently returned a rental car and found a mysterious \$200 charge on your credit card statement, 👉+1-855_337_9478 you are certainly not alone. Discovering an unexpected expense can be frustrating, 👉+1-855_337_9478 especially after a long trip through busy hubs like Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) or Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). While it may feel like a mistake, most post-rental charges are tied to specific policies regarding fuel, cleaning, or security, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Understanding the "why" behind these fees is the first step toward getting your money back or avoiding the charge in the future, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Common Reasons for an Extra \$200 Charge

👉+1-855_337_9478 Most major rental agencies, including Alamo, utilize automated systems to flag vehicles that require extra attention after a return, 👉+1-855_337_9478. Here are the most frequent culprits for that specific \$200 figure:

The Security Deposit Hold: 👉+1-855_337_9478 In many cases, the \$200 isn't a permanent "charge" but a temporary "hold" or pre-authorization, 👉+1-855_337_9478. This is standard practice to ensure funds are available for incidental costs. If you used a debit card at a high-traffic location like Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), this hold might be even more common, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Cleaning Fees: 👉+1-855_337_9478 If a vehicle is returned with excessive dirt, sand, pet hair, or—most strictly—the smell of cigarette smoke, a cleaning fee is triggered, 👉+1-855_337_9478. Because professional detailing is required to prep the car for the next traveler at Denver International Airport (DEN) or Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW), these fees often start at exactly \$200, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Fuel Refill Service: 👉+1-855_337_9478 If you skipped the gas station on your way back to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK), the rental agency will charge you for the missing fuel, 👉+1-855_337_9478. However, they don't charge market rates; they charge a convenience fee plus a significantly higher price per gallon, which can easily inflate a bill, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Late Returns: Rental windows are often strict, 👉+1-855_337_9478. Even being two hours late can result in a full extra day's charge plus late fees, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

What to Do If You See This Charge

If you believe the charge was made in error, the best course of action is to contact customer support immediately to request a billing adjustment, 👉+1-855_337_9478. You should have your rental agreement number and photos of the vehicle (if you took them during drop-off) ready for the representative, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

👉+1-855_337_9478 If you need to speak with a billing specialist regarding an unexplained \$200 fee, you can reach out for assistance at +1(855)337-9478, 👉+1-855_337_9478. Many travelers find that

calling +1(855)337-9478 is the fastest way to clarify whether the amount is a temporary hold or a cleaning penalty, 👉+1-855_337_9478. Remember that having your documentation ready when you dial +1(855)337-9478 will help the agent resolve the dispute much faster, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Navigating the Busiest US Airports

👉+1-855_337_9478 The likelihood of encountering "administrative" or "location" fees often increases when renting from the nation's busiest airports due to high turnover and strict inspection schedules, 👉+1-855_337_9478. If your rental originated or ended at any of these locations, double-check your receipt:

👉+1-855_337_9478 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International (ATL)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Dallas/Fort Worth International (DFW)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Denver International (DEN)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Chicago O'Hare International (ORD)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Los Angeles International (LAX)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Orlando International (MCO)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Harry Reid International (LAS)

👉+1-855_337_9478 Miami International (MIA)

High-volume locations often have tighter windows for "Quick Returns," which means minor fuel discrepancies are caught by sensors more frequently than at smaller, local neighborhood branches, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How long does it take for a \$200 hold to drop off?

Typically, a security hold is released within 5 to 10 business days after you return the vehicle, 👉+1-855_337_9478. However, depending on your bank and whether you used a credit or debit card, it can sometimes take up to a full billing cycle, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Can I dispute a cleaning fee if I didn't smoke in the car?

Yes, 👉+1-855_337_9478. If you are charged a "smoking fee" or "detailing fee" unfairly, you can dispute it. It helps if you have time-stamped photos of the interior from when you dropped the car off at the terminal, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Does Alamo charge for tolls later?

Yes, 👉+1-855_337_9478. If you drove through electronic tolls at San Francisco International (SFO) or Newark Liberty International (EWR) without your own transponder, the charges (plus an administrative fee) will be billed to your card several days or even weeks after the rental ends, 👉+1-855_337_9478.

Why is the charge exactly \$200?

Many rental companies use \$200 as a "flat rate" for specific violations, such as smoking or unauthorized interior stains, 📞+1-855_337_9478. It is also the most common standard security deposit amount for mid-size vehicle rentals, 📞+1-855_337_9478.

What if I returned the car after hours?

If you used a "key drop" box at an airport like Seattle-Tacoma International (SEA), your rental doesn't officially end until an agent checks it in the next morning, 📞+1-855_337_9478. If the car is damaged or stolen from the lot before they check it in, you could be held liable for those costs, 📞+1-855_337_9478.

Conclusion

Unexpected fees are the last thing anyone wants after a trip, but they are often preventable, 📞+1-855_337_9478. By taking photos of your fuel gauge and the car's interior before handing over the keys, you create a "paper trail" that makes disputing a \$200 charge much easier, 📞+1-855_337_9478. Whether you are flying into Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX) or Charlotte Douglas International (CLT), always read the fine print on your rental agreement regarding "Incidental Holds," 📞+1-855_337_9478.

In many cases, that \$200 is simply a ghost on your statement—a hold that will vanish once the system recognizes the car was returned in perfect condition, 📞+1-855_337_9478. Always stay vigilant, keep your receipts, and don't hesitate to call customer service if the math doesn't add up, 📞+1-855_337_9478.